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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart et al.
Serial No.: 09/875,588
Filing Date: 06/06/2001
For: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM
AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME

RECEIVED
APR 16 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: Julian W. Woo
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 3

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED
WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL,
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April 2, 2003

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

James A. Sheridan

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

James A. Sheridan 04/02/03
(SIGNATURE)

April 2, 2003

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PETITION FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Applicants hereby petition for a three (3) month extension of time to respond to the outstanding OFFICIAL ACTION mailed October 2, 2002 with respect to the above-identified patent application, thereby extending the time for response from January 2, 2003 to April 2, 2003.

A check in the amount of \$930.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the petition fee. This petition fee has been calculated on the basis of a Large Entity status.

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In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for the convenience of the Office.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Sheridan 04/02/03

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